

I routinely receive correspondence that contains information that is inaccurate or in some instances false. This page is dedicated to clearing up some of the rumors and misinformation about Congress and legislation being considered in the House of Representatives.

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Health Care Reform 3200

Gene's position on Health Care Reform is clear. "I am opposed to the current health care reform bills being debated in Congress."

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to read more on Gene's position.

[Click here](#) for a guide to whether statements on Health Reform Bill HR 3200 are true, false, or misleading. The guide is merely to provide information on whether a statement is factual. The guide is not an editorial on any aspect of HR 3200.

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Income Tax for Congressmembers

FICTION:

"Evidently many of those working in the White House and some congress

FACT:


On May 22, 2009, the American Family Association (AFA) released a report titled "Evidently many of those working in the White House and some congress

On May 27, 2009, Rep. Gene Taylor wrote Rev. Wildmon expressing shock that the AFA had placed the

"The fact is members of Congress are compensated well—with a \$174,000 annual salary. As a result, c

In closing, while the nature in which this matter is presented on the AFA website is inflammatory, I do not

Click below to read Rep. Taylor's letter and the AFA website page to which the congressman's letter is re

 [GT Ltr to Rev Wildmon w attachment 27 May 09.pdf](#)
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GIVE Act

The Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act (HR 1388)

There are several pieces of false information being spread through the media regarding this piece of legislation. Below is a summary of some of the most common misunderstandings about this legislation, and what the bill actually does.

FICTION:

Anyone participating in volunteering under the GIVE Act will not be able to go to Church or will be pre

FACT: There is no restriction on people going to church, worshiping, or practicing

Under TITLE V – SEC. 5103 Office of Volunteers for Prosperity, Compliance With Ineligible Service Catego

FICTION:

Children and Students will be forced into service and volunteering.

FACT:

Participation in programs authorized under the GIVE act is voluntary. Chil

FICTION:

The President is trying to build an Army of volunteers or a Youth Brigade.

FACT:

The GIVE Act is simply an expansion of the existing program for people wh

More than 12,000 AmeriCorps volunteers have signed up to assist the Gulf Coast region through this pr

This bill focuses on organizations like AmeriCorps, which provides services that address unmet needs fo

For their work in this program, a full time (one year) volunteer receives \$11,400 with limited health benef

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NAFTA Superhighway

FICTION: The Federal Government is building a NAFTA Superhighway that connects Mexico to Canada through the United States.

FACT: There is no federal government plan to build a NAFTA Superhighway.

As you may know, there is a group called North America's SuperCorridor Organization (NASCO), which is a consortium of public and private entities. This organization tries to build and expand upon existing interstate corridors working with local, city, county and state governments to help develop business along these routes. The NASCO website has a map which shows two existing interstates, I-35 and I-29, which run from Southwest United States up to Canada through Minnesota. Again, these are already existing interstates but on its website, NASCO says it and some of the local governments along I-35 have referred to this route as the "NAFTA Superhighway."

It is important to understand that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) does not actually build interstates. The FHWA is responsible for providing funds to states to build highways. This means that individual states have the responsibility to maintain and build interstates, not the federal government. There is also no method for the federal government to provide any funding for multi-state corridors, like the so-called NAFTA Superhighway. When a group of states decide they are interested in building or expanding a corridor that would run through multiple states, the governors and state legislatures of these states have to provide funding and draft plans to develop these types of corridors. The federal government is not involved in this process. There is no functional program run by the federal government to fund the building or expansion of multi-state corridors.

There are plans for a Trans-Texas Corridor, a road that would be (in spots) several football fields wide. This road would be financed by a private company (which is partially Spanish-owned) that would then charge tolls to recoup its investment. But the Trans-Texas Corridor was approved by the Texas State Legislature and the Governor of Texas. This is a state initiative and it is not part of any type of "NAFTA Superhighway."

If an organization is asking you to send them money to fight the NAFTA Superhighway, they are not being honest with you. As a citizen, you are allowed to do whatever you would like with your own money, but there is no federal plan to build any type of new NAFTA Superhighway. Any effort to build or expand multi-state corridors like I-35, is done at the state and local level.

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Social Security

FICTION:

FACT:

Members of Congress are exempt or do not pay into social security. Over All Members of Congress pay Social Security. As mandated by law, each

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Welfare Cell Phones/Obama-Phones

Fiction: People on welfare are getting free cell phones or Obama-Phones.

Fact: The Federal government is not giving away free cell phones. Taxpayers are not paying for the program created in 2008 that allows some low-income households to receive subsidized cell phones. Funding for this program comes from the Universal Service Fund (USF). This fund is paid for by Telecommunications companies. Again, taxpayer dollars do NOT fund this program.

In 1984, during the Reagan Administration, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in conjunction with states and local telephone companies, set up the Lifeline program to help low income households afford monthly telephone service. In 1987, the FCC added Link Up America to help low-income households with the costs of installation. These actions were in response to high rates for local telephone service after the breakup of the AT&T monopoly. AT&T had used high long-distance rates to subsidize low-cost local phone service, but when local and long distance services were divided, the long distance rates came down and the local service rates went up.

In 2008, during the Bush Administration, the FCC approved the SafeLink Wireless program to subsidize cell phones for low-income households as an alternative to subsidized landline service in the Lifeline program. Again, these programs use funds from the Universal Service Fund, not federal tax dollars appropriated by Congress.

The practice of ensuring that low-cost telephone service is available to all households dates back to an agreement between AT&T and the Wilson Administration in 1913. The program was formalized into law in 1934, during the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration. In the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress expanded the types of companies contributing to the USF. Now, all telecommunications companies that provide service between states, including long distance companies, local telephone companies, wireless telephone companies, paging companies, and payphone providers, are required to contribute. Carriers providing international services also must contribute to the Fund.

Since the 1996 Act, telecommunications companies pay a percentage of their interstate and international revenues into the USF. This is called the contribution factor and is reset each quarter of the year, according to the needs of the consumers it is designed to help. The current contribution factor for telecommunications companies is 8.9 per cent. There are four beneficiaries of the Universal Service Fund.

1. **Low-Income Consumers** This program provides to
2. **High-Cost Service Area Providers** This program provides financial support to companies
3. **Schools and Libraries.** This program helps to ensure
4. **Rural Health Care Providers** This program helps to link health care providers located

The FCC does not require companies to recover their contributions directly from their customers. Each company makes a business decision about whether and how to assess customers to recover the USF cost. Although it is not mandatory that companies charge a Universal Service fee to help recover their contributions to the fund, most do. However, companies that choose to collect USF fees from their customers cannot collect an amount that exceeds their contribution to the USF.

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